

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1071
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
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SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS ON STRAINS IN US-TURKISH RELATIONS, MARCH 15

REF: ANKARA 1933

1. SUMMARY: IN TURKISH PRESS REPORTING OF STRAINS IN
US-TURKISH RELATIONS MARCH 15, ECEVIT'S INITIAL REACTION TO
STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S CLARIFICATION TAKES FIRST PLACE.
CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI'S PROMISE TO WRITE A NEW LETTER TO
SECRETARY VANCE AND SEEK A DEFINITE INDICATION OF THE
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CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTIONS TOWARD THE DEFENSE
COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) IS ALSO PROMINENTLY REPORTED.
PRESS CONTINUES TO SPECULATE ON POSSIBLE NEXT MOVES, AND
ECEVIT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL BRIEF OPPOSITION PARTY
LEADERS ON RECENT EVENTS. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO TURKISH RADIO NEWS AT 1500 HOURS GMT

MARCH 14, PRIMIN ECEVIT ANSWERED A REPORTER'S QUESTION ON THE CLARIFICATION MADE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT THE PRECEDING DAY. HE SAID, "I HAVR READ THE CLARIFICATION. I DO NOT THINK THERE IS A DENIAL OF THE STATEMENTS, THE REMARKS, WHICH WERE MADE AND WERE THE SUBJECT OF OUR COMPLAINT. THEY ARE MERELY BEING INTERPRETED IN A DIFFERENT MANNER. OF COURSE, WE ARE PLEASED BY THIS. I HAVE THE IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT CLARITY HAS NOT (REPEAT NOT) BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARD THE BASIC PROBLEMS BETWEEN US." MOST HEADLINES AND NEWS STORIES STRESS THE FINAL SENTENCE OF THE PRIMIN'S ANSWER, AND OF THE MAJOR PAPERS, ONLY CUMHURIYET CARRIES THE FULL COMMENT.

3. MOST PAPERS PROMINENTLY REPORT THAT CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI HAS FOUND THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO HIS LETTER TO THE SECRETARY INADEQUATE. OPPOSITION TERCUMAN SAYS THAT BECAUSE THE LETTER FROM SECRETARY VANCE DID NOT CLEARLY STATE THE ATTITUDE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOWARD THE DCA ISSUE, CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI IS PLANNING TO FORWARD A NEW LETTER ASKING FOR A CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTIONS.

4. MILLIYET CORRESPONDENT SAYNUR GOREN REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST, WHO SHE QUOTES AS TELLING ESENBEL: "THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT MISUNDERSTOOD SECRETARY VANCE'S STATEMENT IN A COMMITTEE HEARING. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE TURKISH-AMERICAN DCA. THIS AGREEMENT, WHICH WILL LIFT THE EMBARGO, IS GOING TO BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT MONTH. THERE IS NO LINK BETWEEN THIS ISSUE AND THE CYPRUS PROBLEM."

5. IN ITS MARCH 15 EDITION MILLIYET ALSO HAS A STORY ON "THE ANKARA VIEW" WHICH INCLUDES COMMENTS BY UNNAMED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ONE OFFICIAL ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE USEFUL IF THE CLARIFICATION HAD BEEN ISSUED TWO DAYS EARLIER AND ADDED: "THE LOCUS FOR DECISION AND ACTION IS THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND CONGRESS NOW... RESPONSIBILITY LIES ON THAT SIDE. THERE IS NOTHING TURKEY CAN DO ON THIS SUBJECT. TURKEY EXPRESSED ITS FULL GOOD WILL, EXPLAINED IN FULL CLARITY AND HONESTY THAT THERE ARE METHODS FOR REVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND IN THE MEAN-TIME INDICATED THAT ITS APPROACHES ARE BASED ON MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. THE RECENTLY OBSERVED CONTRADICTORY ATTITUDES OF THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION ON THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WITH TURKEY HAVE LED TO A SHAKING OF THIS FEELING OF CONFIDENCE TO A CERTAIN EXTENT ON OUR SIDE. NOW, IN VIEW OF THE CLARIFICATIONS OF THE US, WE HAVE TAKEN A WAIT AND SEE POSITION. THIS WILL BE A SOMEWHAT HESITANT ATTITUDE. WE WILL FOLLOW THE DETER-

MINATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
IN THEIR ATTEMPTS AND THEIR MOVES TO ARRIVE AT A SOLUTION.
IN THE COMING TWO OR THREE WEEKS, A RESULT WILL EMERGE."

6. IN THE SAME ARTICLE, ANOTHER OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY TOLD
MILLIYET THAT THERE IS A "POSSIBILITY" THAT THE CYPRUS
PROPOSALS WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE USG MAKES CLEAR THAT IT
IS GOING TO SUPPORT THE DCA AND TO ANNOUNCE ITS VIEWS WHEN
THE DCA IS SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS. "IF IT IS TRUE THAT THE
UNITED STATES DOES NOT LINK THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO AND
THE CYPRUS PROPOSALS, THEN THE DATE THE CYPRUS PROPOSALS ARE
PRESENTED IS NOT IMPORTANT. THE PORPOSALS ARE READY AND HAVE
BEEN FOUND CONSTRUCTIVE. TURKEY SEEKS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION
TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM THROUGH THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.
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BEYOJD THIS, THE USG NEED NOT CONCERN ITSELF."

7. THE MILLIYET ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT ON MARCH 14,
AMBASSADOR SPIERS CALLED ON MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG TO DELIVER A
COPY OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
ON MARCH 13. ACCORDING TO THE MILLIYET ACCOUNT, THE
AMBASSADOR GAVE ELEKDAG "A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF DEVELOPMENTS
WHICH BEGAN WITH THE ANSWERS VANCE GAVE TO QUESTIONS AND OPENED
THE WAY TO ECEVIT'S STRONG REACTION."

8. FOLLOWING HIS MARCH 14 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK,
PRIMIN ECEVIT TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE WOULD CALL A MEETING OF
OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS AND BRIEF THEM ON THE RESULTS OF HIS
MEETING WITH GREEK PRIMINCARAMANLIS. APPARENTLY FOLLOWING THIS

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ANNOUNCEMENT, MASS APPEAL HURRIYET INTERVIEWED THE NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY LEADER, ALPARSLAN TURKES, WHO TOLD HURRIYET, "...IN PURSUIT OF ITS POLICY OF PEACE, TURKEY ENTERED NATO AND ADOPTED THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM...FOR 27 YEARS THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES HAVE MET ALL OF THEIR NEEDS FROM THE UNITED STATES. IT WILL BE WORTHWHILE TO RE-EVALUATE TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES THERE IS VALUE IN REVITALIZING GREEK-TURKISH FRIENDSHIP, BUT THE BASIC REQUIREMENT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY COUNTRY, EVEN THE UNITED STATES OR GREECE, IS THE PROTECTION OF TURKEY'S INTERESTS."

9. AMONG THE POLITICAL CARTOONS APPEARING MARCH 15, THE FRONT PAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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MILLIYET CARTOON DRAWN BY BEDRI KORAMAN IS AMONG THE MOST CAUSTIC. IT SHOWS A STERN PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT, SHAKING HIS FIST AND SAYING, "DON'T CAST A SHADOW (ON MY WORK); I ASK NOTHING ELSE" (A TURKISH EXPRESSION ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO "WITH FRIENDS LIKE YOU WHO NEEDS ENEMIES?"). OPPOSITE HIM IS A GRINNING, BOWING, CARICATURE OF PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO IS SAYING, "PLEASE SIR. THERE SEEMS TO BE A MISUNDERSTANDING..EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT..JUST BE CALM UNTIL APRIL 4 AND THE EMBARGO WILL BE LIFTED." BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS ARE SMALL CARICATURES OF THREE UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING TURKISH CRITICS OF ECEVIT'S OUTBURST WHO ARE WAVING AT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AND CALLING, "MY, IS SUCH A THING TO BE SAID? BE QUIET*" ECEVIT IS LABELLED "TURK," CARTER "AMERICAN," AND THE CRITICS ARE CAPTIONED WITH QUESTION MARKS. CARTOON REPRESENTS THREAT OF CRITICISM RUNNING THROUGH MUCH OF PRESS THAT THOSE WHO CRITICIZED ECEVIT ARE SOMEHOW ANTI-NATIONALIST.

10. IN ITS LEAD, FRONT PAGE STORY, SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN (CIR 400,000) INDICATES THAT THE STRAIN IN US-TURKISH RELATIONS MAY BE WEAKENING TURKEY'S TIES TO THE WEST.

GUNAYDIN'S HEADLINE AND SUBHEAD STATE, "WE ARE BEING PUSHED FORCEFULLY TOWARD THE THIRD WORLD, BECAUSE OF THE UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF THE WEST. DIPLOMATIC QUARTERS IN ANKARA NOTE THAT BECUASE OF THE WRONG ATTITUDE OF THE WEST WHICH HAS CONTINUED FOR FOUR YEARS, TURKEY IS GOING TO SLIDE TO THE NON-ALIGNED BLOCK. POLITICAL OBSERVERS CHARACTERIZE THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH LIBYA AS AN IMPORTANT STEP ON THE WAY TO DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD." IN A COMPANION ARTICLE, GUNAYDIN HIGHLIGHTS A RELEASE FROM THE LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY, JANA, WHICH SAYS, "THE UNITED STATES HAS ADOPTED A DIRTY AND CHILDISH POLICY OF INTIMIDATION AGAINST TURKEY. PRIMIN ECEVIT SAID HE COULD SOLVE PROBLEMS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY IF OTHERS DID NOT INTERFERE. THE UNITED STATES, HOWEVER, IS PUTTING PRESSURE ON TURKEY

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TO ADOPT ITS OWN VIEWS."
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